

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
HIGHER EDUCATION
and
WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
1:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 588, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

House Bill 588, House Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the initial staff necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) and its programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The measure would provide initial funding to the University of Hawaii of an unspecified amount to hire four, full-time, permanent employees to develop and manage the He'eia NERR. The Department supported efforts to secure the NERR designation, as federal and state funds will go towards further research on the State's largest estuary in Kāne'ohe Bay. The information that will be discovered about this ecosystem will help us better manage this important resource. The Department supports this bill provided it does not adversely impact our priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA'KO
KALAELOA

David Y. Ige
Governor

John Whalen
Chairperson

Jesse K. Souki
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF

JESSE K. SOUKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND

ON

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

1:45 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

**HB588, HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE‘EIA NATIONAL
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE**

Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, and members
of the committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports**
HB588, HD1.

While the HCDA board is a signatory to the He‘eia National Estuarine
Research Reserve. The Reserve is a multi-party agreement among the Hawaii
Institute of Marine Biology, HCDA, and other organizations. The Reserve enjoys
broad community support; therefore, we support the intent of HB588, HD1 to
support the reserve as long as it does not replace priorities requested in the
Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and Water & Land
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 1:45 p.m.

By
Dr. Ruth D. Gates, Director
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 588 HD1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

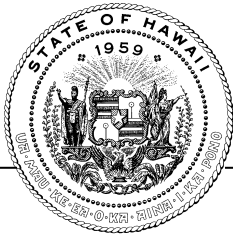
Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, and members of the committees.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 588 HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Budget.

In my role as Director of the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, I am presenting testimony in strong support of HB 588 HD1, the success of which will allow the University to staff the newly designated He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). The designation and inclusion of He'eia in the national network of estuarine reserve sites, marks the culmination of two years of collaborative action by members of the local community (Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, the Ko'olaupoko Foundation, Paepae O He'eia, Kako'o'Oiwi) and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology).

The He'eia NERR is unlike any other in that it is a coalescence of community and science; federal, state and local efforts; and modern science and traditional knowledge that aims to implement and understand how restoration efforts in the He'eia wetland influence the health of the adjacent estuarine ecosystem. The federal funding that accompanies the He'eia NERR will serve to forward activities that explicitly expose the youth of Hawai'i, and students across the US, to a broad array of science concepts from land use to ecology to marine biology all in the context of traditional land management. The four positions requested in HB 588 HD1 will coordinate research, management, education and cultural activities inside the He'eia NERR and are, in my opinion, the lynchpin to successful collaborative stewardship of the He'eia watershed.

I ask the committee to approve HB 588 HD1 and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this important House Bill



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND WATER AND LAND
March 21, 2017
1:45 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of
HB 588, HD1
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE.**

Chairs Kahele and Rhodes, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education, and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 588, HD1, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) is a network of coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. Established through the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§1451-1466), the reserves represent a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. In 2012, OP was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the site selection for a Hawai'i site and resulting nomination process for the He'eia site to be designated as a NERR.

The He'eia site, located on the windward shore of O'ahu and including He'eia State Park, He'eia Fishpond, and the He'eia Community Development District (CDD), as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island), was chosen as the preferred site after a statewide solicitation period from interested communities. OP supported the designation process through the development of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Plan (Management Plan). On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was officially designated as the 29th site in the NERRS, which enables federal funding to support the implementation of the Management Plan.

The University of Hawai'i (UH), Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology is the lead agency for the implementation of the Management Plan with site partners to include: the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Paepae o He'eia, as well as supporting community organizations such as the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, and Kako'o Oiwi. HB 588, HD1 would

support the staffing needs of the NERR as outlined in the Management Plan to initiate successful implementation and to meet funding match requirements of the NOAA partnership. OP defers to UH for the specific staffing request to fulfill the State match requirement and necessary staffing support for the operation of the NERR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

March 21, 2017

TO: Sen. Kai Kahele, Chair
& Members
Committee on Higher Education

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
& Members
Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Aaron D. Mahi, President
Ko`olau Foundation

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR H.B.588, H.D. 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HE`EIA NATIONAL
ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

On behalf of the Ko`olau Foundation, I send you our aloha and best wishes for success in the remaining days of this legislative session.

We wish to express our strong support for H.B. 588, H.D. 1, which would make an appropriation for the He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This appropriation would support a new federal-state initiative to work toward healthy estuarine and bay waters and its surrounding lands.

Our Foundation's primary purpose is to advocate for the preservation and cultural resources of our community. The historic He`eia fishpond and extensive lo`i kalo fields – and the estuarine that supports it – are critical to the healthy future of this ahupua`a and Kane`ohe Bay.

It is critical, in this time of rising sea levels and the impact of climate change on our food supplies, that we address the sustainability of our farmlands and fishponds to provide locally-grown food.

We urge you to approve this bill and support its inclusion in the 2017 budget of the State of Hawai`i.

Mahalo.



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 21, 2017

To: Sen. Kai Kahele, Chair / & Members
Committee on Higher Education

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair / & Members
Committee on Water & Land

From: Alice P. Hewett, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: Support for HB588, HD1 - Appropriation
for He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve

Aloha, Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, and Members of both Committees:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports House Bill 588, House Draft 1, which would provide funding to match committed federal monies for the He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

As the largest Hawaiian organization in the moku of Ko`olaupoko, our members come primarily from the nine ahupua`a around Kane`ohe Bay, including the ahupua`a of He`eia.

We are greatly concerned about the health and sustainability of the `aina within the Kane`ohe Bay region, and the He`eia estuary's ability to thrive and support both the lands and waters within and adjacent to it face many environmental challenges to its sustainability.

We see the NERRS program as an excellent opportunity to identify these challenges and explore solutions to ensure that the 400-acre HCDA lands – where Kako`o `Oiwī is restoring these taro fields to produce food once again – and He`eia fishpond – where Paepae o He`eia is working to restore fish production, remain viable options for our local markets.

This is an outstanding example of public-private partnerships between the federal and state governments and our island communities.

We urge your committee to approve this measure. Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana`o.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:56 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: vicentejan@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JAN	Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 10:17 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus, DPH, supports HB 588, HD1, that would appropriate funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the initial staff positions that are necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System and its programs. The value of NERRS is clearly articulated in HB 588 HD1 to warrant this appropriation, i.e. "the System is founded on the principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries provides stable platforms for research and education and the application of management practices that will benefit the nation's estuaries and coasts." Accordingly please pass HB588 HD 1.

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 588 HD1 Making Appropriation for He'eia
National Estuarine Research Reserve
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 1:45 PM, Room 414

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 588 HD1 which would provide funding for staffing in support of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. State funding is anticipated to be matched by \$700,000 in federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) partners with states and territories to ensure long-term education, stewardship, and research on estuarine habitats. Atlantic, Gulf, Pacific, Caribbean and Great Lakes reserves advance knowledge and stewardship of estuaries and serve as a scientific foundation for coastal management decisions.

The ahupua'a of He'eia on the island of O'ahu is one of twelve NOAA-designated Sentinel Sites and in January 2017 was designated as the [29th National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). The He'eia NERR encompasses upland forests and grasslands, wetlands, reefs and seagrass beds, as well as Kāne'ohe Bay—the largest sheltered body of water in the Hawaiian Islands. The designation reflects the community's desire to ensure the protection and sustainable management of valued cultural, historical and natural resources. The proposed NERR will also enhance the community's capacity to use scientific information for decision-making, and increase local and national support for research, education, and restoration efforts in the region.

He'eia contains a world-class research institution (Hawai'i Institute for Marine Biology) and multiple community organizations including Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Ko'olau Foundation, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, Paepae o He'eia, and the He'eia State Park working together to develop and implement effective management strategies in an entire ahupua'a. Collaboration between these organizations is recognized as necessary because of the interconnected relationship each ecosystem has to another within the He'eia ahupua'a. Any effect up in the mountains will work its way into the wetlands and lo'i (traditional wetland agriculture systems), flow downstream to the loko i'a (fishponds) and eventually into the bay and onto coral reefs.

Ecologically, Kāne'ohe Bay is unique and the opportunity to highlight this special type of estuarine system is unparalleled in Hawai'i. From a research perspective, Kāne'ohe Bay has experienced a history of significant disturbances, from wastewater effluent to invasive algae. However, its variety of corals have shown to be some of the most resilient and able to recover from recent bleaching events around the entire state. This condition may provide insight into how to save other coral reefs around the state from future unfavorable ocean conditions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Maya Maleka Walton
1022 Prospect St. Apt. 404
Honolulu, HI, 96822

March 20, 2017

Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees,

I am writing in support of HB588, HD1. Im a voter and resident living in the Makiki district in Honolulu and I spend my free time on the weekends volunteering to restore the streams, fishponds, wetlands, and lo'i in the Heeia watershed. There is a great work taking place in He'eia and a wonderful community of residents, researchers, local managers, cultural practitioners, educators, and young people who are dedicated to this place. I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, HD1, relating to Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill. The National Estuarine Research Reserve will add capacity and infrastructure to a place and projects that the community is already very invested in. I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Aloha

Maya Walton

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

20 March 2017

Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588, HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

As a long-term resident of O'ahu who has worked in the Kāne'ohe Bay region for over a decade, I strongly support bill HB588. This project will benefit the Kāne'ohe Bay community and serve as an example for the nation in how the integration of culture and science can bring about impactful results to communities. The reserve will provide a platform to meld traditional methods of management with modern science to help restore the impacted watershed of He'eia.

I ask that you support the passage of this bill to secure the State of Hawai'i funding match for the Federal funding committed to this effort to restore He'eia ahupua'a.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Iacchei". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being more prominent than the last name "Iacchei".

Matthew Iacchei

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:50 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: lindsayv@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsay Veazey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:09 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: krafthd@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Kraft	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:31 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: ealenz@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Lenz	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

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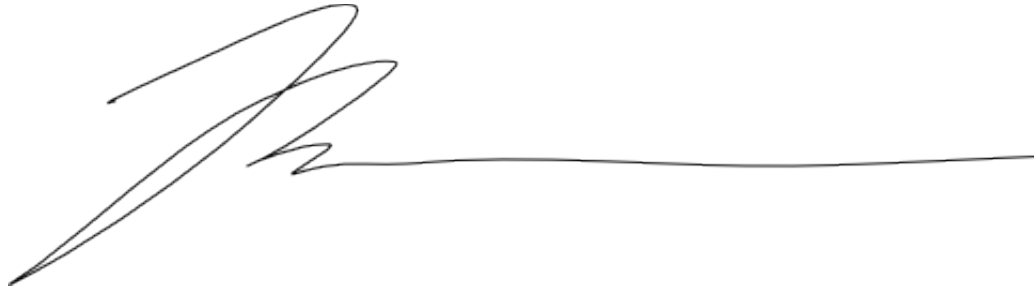
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Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve.

I strongly support this bill,

In these challenging times, it is critically important that we work together as stewards of the land working to integrate scientific and cultural knowledge. The He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve would accomplish just that. Allocating funds for core positions would allow this to happen and enable matching funding. Integrated restoration of the ahupua'a of He'eia will benefit Hawai'i in so many ways, this is a community effort that will provide knowledge for increased food security, and decreasing damage to coral reefs. I ask the committee to support this bill since it will have many benefits for many years to come. Mahalo nui loa.

-Zac Forsman

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'Z' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:30 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: across@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annick Cros	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia. Thank you, Annick Cros

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 6:23 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: kebahr@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keisha Bahr	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 1:57 AM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: melrprice@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 10:38 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: iknapp@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ingrid Knapp	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Richard Coleman
1022 Prospect St #404
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senate Ways & Means Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of support for HB 588, HD1

19 March 2017

Dear Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees,

I am writing this letter in **support of HB 558, HD1**, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. This reserve provides a unique opportunity for science and traditional knowledge to come together to restore the He'eia watershed. The project will provide a direct benefit the surrounding communities as well as serve as a example to the rest of the nation of how science can be used as a tool to benefit local communities. I ask that you please support the passage of this bill to secure the States match for the Federal funding committed to this effort.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Coleman
Ph.D Candidate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2017 9:57 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: carolyfong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM

HB588

Submitted on: 3/19/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB588,HD1, Making an Appropriation for the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill. This reserve will bring together traditional methods of management with modern science to restore the impacted watershed of He'eia. The allocation of funds for these core positions will ensure success as the project benefits the community and serves as an example for the nation in the integration of culture and science. Therefore, I ask that your committee support the passage of this bill to secure the State match for the Federal funding committed to this long-term effort to restore the ahupua'a of He'eia.

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March 19, 2017

Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kidani and Gabbard and members of the committees, I thank you for this opportunity to provide my personal testimony in support of HB 588, HD1, Relating to Making an Appropriation for the Heʻeia National Estuarine Research Reserve. I strongly support this bill.

As a faculty member at UH Mānoa, I must first say that I support the prioritization process used by the administration to establish their annual budgetary request to the legislature and can only advocate for additional funding of university programs if it does not negatively impact existing requests that are included in the executive budget.

The establishment of a NERRS in Kāneʻohe Bay was first proposed as one of the recommendations from the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan. The successful designation of the Heʻeia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) results from more than two years of collaborative effort from members of the community including, Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Koʻolaupoko Foundation, Paepae O Heʻeia, Kākoʻo ʻŌiwi and UHʻs Hawaiʻi Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State Office of Planning.

This newest site in the NERR system is unlike any other in the Nation - it is a coalescence of community and culture and research to combine modern science with traditional methods and cultural practices in the hope of restoring a more productive watershed from mauka to makai. Additionally, unlike other federal NERRs, this designation effort has been community led from the beginning. The NERRS will expose the youth of Hawaiʻi to a broad array of cultural and science concepts from historical and modern land use to ecological knowledge to cutting edge marine biology and will empower the community to restore Heʻeia with the backing from the State of Hawaiʻi and Federal funding. Being part of the NERRS, NOAA has made a long-term commitment of federal funds (many sites have had continuous funding for more than 40 years) but that Federal investment requires an annual State match of 30% of the total operating budget for the site.

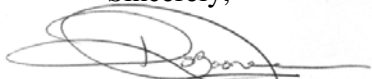
HB588-HD1 seeks to secure that State match in the form of the staff positions required to operate the NERRS site. NOAA mandates a minimum of three core positions and their titles as follows. The first is the Reserve Manager who is responsible for all administrative activities and oversight of the partnership. The second position is the Research Coordinator, who is typically a faculty member at the partner university responsible for designing and implementing the core research on which the Reserve is founded. In this case, the core research question is what constitutes the best management practices for a tropical island estuary such as Heʻeia. The third required position is the Educational Coordinator, who is responsible for developing and implementing the required educational programs and coordinating the educational efforts of each of the site partners to create a more cohesive and comprehensive educational program. The final position, which is not mandated by NOAA but that we feel would guarantee the long-term success of the site, is the Stewardship and Cultural Resources Coordinator. We also envision this final position as a faculty member charged with the meaningful and effective integration of culture and science at the site, and communication of that integration throughout the State and the national system.

I understand that this measure to create 4 positions represents a significant investment by the State, but the benefits and long term returns on this investment will be even more substantial. The amount of the Federal investment is dependent on the number of sites in the system (each obtains an equal share) and the appropriated Federal budget, but NOAA has released their budget to show that the average annual allocation per site over the past 15 years is \$572,355, and the oldest sites in the system have had over 40 years of

continuous funding. In addition, being a NERR site provides the ability to compete for \$2-5 million dollars of Federal Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (PAC) funds that are available annually only to Reserves (and for which preference is given to new Reserves). Finally, the majority of NERRS sites successfully leverage their State match heavily. For example, the Hudson River NERR in NY, the Jacques Cousteau NERR in NJ, and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR in FL all report leveraging of 4-5 to 1 on their State funding. We are confident that the He'eia NERR will likewise multiply the State investment and bring exceptional new opportunities to the community, students, teachers, researchers and decision makers alike.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my enthusiastic support for HB 588, HD1, and I want to thank your committee for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,



Rob Toonen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 4:11 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB588 on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM*

HB588

Submitted on: 3/17/2017

Testimony for HRE/WTL on Mar 21, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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